

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the discussion at the interview between Applicants' representatives and Examiner Lee and her supervisor, namely Applicants have provided additional language with regard to the peptides as employed in the present invention. In addition, Applicants' claims now refer to the particular peptides of the fibronectin binding domain of a fibronectin binding protein which do not bind to fibronectin and thus which are useful in generating effective antibodies. Applicants' submit that the claims in their present form are now clearly distinguishable from the Burnham patent cited in the Official Action and in suitable condition for allowance for reasons as set forth below.

In the Official Action, the only remaining rejection of the claims was the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) on the basis of the Burnham patent, U.S. 5,955,078. However, it is clear that the Burnham patent does not disclose or suggest the claimed subject of the present application, namely the generating of an antibody to the specific peptides which do not bind to fibronectin. Moreover, it is in fact the case that Burnham merely discloses generating a monoclonal antibody to the general D1-D4 region and not to a peptide which does not bind to fibronectin, and nowhere suggests the generation of antibodies using the peptides of the present invention. Since the present invention as now claimed is directed to the generation of antibodies from peptides which do not bind to fibronectin, and since the claimed subject matter is not disclosed or suggested in the Burnham et al. patent reference, Applicants submit that the rejection on the basis of this reference is traversed and should be withdrawn.

In light of the present amendments to the claims and the arguments as set forth above, Applicants submit that the application in its present form is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner and is condition for immediate allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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